

Brief Notes

"Work while you have the light," if you would really appreciate its blessings. It is the man who fills his life with unselfish toil who appreciates the privilege of living.

It has been discovered that the McRee managers of the penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., have been kidnapping negro visitors and pressing them into servitude. Of course the business has been stopped. Would that those who entice not only negroes but the fairest of our young all over the land, into their establishments and then hold them by the chains of habit in the servitude of vice, might also be restrained from their business!

Lorenzo Snow, president of the Mormon church has been sued by three of his many sons for not supporting one of his many wives. The boys have a perfect right to insist that their mother be treated as a wife should be if the reverend president uses her as such. The practice of polygamy prevailed ages ago in the days of savagery. The attempt to revive it by the Mormons is an attempt to turn the wheels of progress backward.

A sad and singular event occurred not long ago at Toledo, Ohio. A daughter returned to her mother after a wayward life of some years. The mother was so overjoyed that she died from the effects. It is not often that joy is fatal. Most mothers die of grief caused by their wayward children. Few if any, children realize how their lives effect those of their parents. In their foolish pleasure-seeking they little realize the dagger-stabs they are inflicting upon loving parents.

A murderer in St. Louis has surrendered to the police and confessed his deed altho not at all suspected of it. The stings of conscience were more terrible than the prison cell or the gallows itself. The scarlet letter on the heart is even more awful than the scarlet letter worn on the breast for the public gaze.

An American manufacturer recently took charge of the largest boot and shoe factory in Germany. Inside of two weeks he had it turning out just twice as many boots and shoes with the same amount of machinery and labor as before. The change was brought about by a superior organization of the working force. It is the genius of the American people to organize and govern.

The strike of the anthracite coal miners in Pennsylvania has been of unusual interest to all the people not only because of the issues involved in it but because the general use of coal the price of which is affected by the strike. The strikers claim that their wages are not sufficient for comfortable living and are primarily seeking their own benefit but thousands of poor all over the country must suffer with them if the strike continues. As the world grows in civilization the dependence of the people upon each other increases. The savage looks after all his wants while civilized man has divided up his labor. This increasing dependence requires increasing confidence and brotherly love for one another. We are evolving toward the rule of the city, the universal city. It is the God-inhabited city which is the type of heaven.

And now a movement is on foot to induce people to quit eating cooked food. The fad has taken root in Chicago and has gained many adherents. It is argued that cooking kills the cells of the food and destroys its nutritive value. Doubtless there is much yet to be learned in the culinary science, but that all mankind will return to the primitive method of tearing the flesh from living animals and eating it like wild beasts need not be feared for a moment. The Hindoos refrain from eating meat of any kind believing that animals and plants have souls as well as men. They do not even eat vegetables until after they have borne seed. Yet for all this the Hindoo race somehow has not gotten in advance of the rest of the world in morals or civilization.

Information Bureau

(This department has been crowded out for a few weeks but we hope to continue it regularly again. Queries are solicited. Names will not be published but should always accompany the query. —Ed.)

1 A skeptic in this community charges that the Bible contradicts itself in the two accounts of the death of Judas. How do you explain?

Matt. 27:5 says that Judas "hanged himself" while Acts 1:18-20 says that he fell and burst asunder. The two accounts are not necessarily contradictory as the falling could easily occur during the hanging. Indeed such a fall as is mentioned would hardly occur to one merely walking. The different authors were not working in collision consequently each one gave his own version of the different events. The purpose of the writings is to convey religious teaching and the question of the accuracy of the accounts as to details is after all an immaterial one.

2 Why do our preachers have so much to say against the use of tobacco when there is nothing said in the Bible against its use?

Tobacco along with opium, morphine, cocaine and other poisonous drugs were not used in Bible times hence they are not mentioned directly. Tobacco was first used by white people after the discovery of America. It is objected to by our ministers because its active principle, nicotine, is a deadly poison which affects some more than others but which works injurious effects on all causing "tobacco heart," cancers, nervousness and other diseases. It uniformly accompanies liquor drinking. It is a great annoyance to those who do not use it being exceedingly obnoxious and filthy. Besides this the habit can be transmitted by heredity to innocent children. And if nothing else could be said against it the waste of money for "that which is not bread," i. e., that which works no good, is sufficient to condemn it. While not mentioned in scripture yet it is covered by Gal. 5:19, 20, where a list of vices are denounced and all the others are included under "and such like." Business concerns are gradually coming to exclude men who use tobacco from the most responsible positions. Its use is being prohibited more and more in public places. The Christian cannot afford to sear his conscience and hinder his influence for good by its use.

3 Do you think it right for Christians to take part in political processions and associate with all the hoodlums of such a crowd?

We cannot take the place of the conscience of the individual. Circumstances alter cases. Every man must judge the conditions in his case and decide for himself. Jesus taught to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's. In his day that meant simply tribute and obedience, but in this government by and for and of the people it means all the duties of voting citizenship. It is idle to pray "Thy kingdom come" and then allow the unchristian and "hoodlum" elements to fill the offices and run the government. It is the duty of Christians to vote and hold office, and sacrifice if necessary to perform these duties. Government is of God (Rom. 13:1, 2) and he who shirks his duty in the government sins against God. Politics may be corrupt but if so it is because so much of the "salt of the earth" is keeping aloof and congratulating itself upon its own saltiness instead of performing the duty of salt where it is needed. There are moral issues before the people and the party which stands right on these will not be supported by the hoodlum crowd. If one cannot march in a procession with decent people it is our opinion he had better refrain. It is more important to have influence as a Christian than as a politician. Never give up your Christian lamp for the political torch.

Quiet Observer

On Harnessed Enthusiasm

INDIANA FURNISHES AN ILLUSTRATION

The conferences are over. Both general and district gatherings have been unusually successful. A great step forward has been taken all over the brotherhood. As a speaker at Winona said, "The conferences are milestones which mark how far we have travelled." Great plans have been formulated and high resolves taken and there is a general feeling that this first year of the new century is going to be glorious because of the great awakening thru-out the church which will result in great things.

I am a believer in enthusiasm myself. And now as we settle down to the year's work I am moved to say something about the use of enthusiasm. Not long since I saw a herd of horses cavorting about a pasture running and kicking and wasting enough energy to bring a barren hill under cultivation. They furnish me an illustration of those enthusiastic Christians who are so busy praising that they forget to work. I know a woman who talks loud and long at every open meeting but to my knowledge she has never given much to missions nor even been instrumental thru personal work in bringing one soul to Christ. And I know a preacher whose sermons are largely a reiteration of the truth "Christ is all." It is a blessed truth, but unless it be definitely applied it leaves the people hanging in the air grasping at something they scarcely know what. I want to commend therefore the policy of harnessing up enthusiasm and making it plow straight furrows toward the accomplishment of definite good. The plan of the endowment funds for Ashland College and of the Foreign Missionary society with its membership fees, are illustrations of what I mean. Indiana, it is reported, has resolved to try during the year to secure "a thousand consecrated teachers and workers in the church, a thousand converts to Christ, and a thousand dollars for missions." That is what I mean. Consecration and enthusiasm say, "I will do what you want me to do" and common sense looks over the field and says, "By putting forth our best efforts we can by God's help reach these points this year." The objective points are made definite and the stakes set far enough ahead to compel the utmost zeal and yet not so far as to discourage. By a united and continued effort Indiana can reach her goal this year. But what Indiana has done as a State ought not each church and society do in its local work. Let there be a meeting of every official board or executive committee, and after prayer and consultation let plans be laid. "In our field we ought to be able to have workers this year; we ought to be able to win converts and to raise \$—— for missions. Our society ought to secure —— new members and have an average attendance of —— at its meetings. Let our S. S. bring in —— scholars by Christmas. Let us have —— subscribers to the EVANGELIST, etc. Every Y. M. C. A. in the country makes out such a "policy" at the beginning of the year and every committee in it likewise, and from these the "budget" of expense is made out. Perhaps each organization could have a "rally day" soon at which to secure a great crowd, announce plans and enlist workers. Perhaps the ushering in of the new century this coming New Year's night might be made the time for an all night meeting and "decision day" for the winning of souls. Perhaps thanksgiving day can be made the means, not of a lot of feasting and luxury, but of a large offering to the Lord's work. Perhaps, yea I am sure every pastor and leader can think of many definite ways of enlisting aimless enthusiasm and creating more, which for lack of space and knowledge have not been mentioned by Quiet Observer.